

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for initializing a push-to-talk call over a wireless communication network, comprising:

receiving a push-to-talk initialization request in an initiating wireless communication device;

sending a call message from the initiating wireless communication device to a uniquely identified recipient, wherein the call message is sent in a first control channel over the wireless communication network;

receiving a connection status message in the initiating wireless communication device, in response to the call message, wherein the connection status message is received in a second control channel over the wireless communication network;

opening an audio channel on the initiating wireless communication device responsive to the connection status message;

activating a microphone on the initiating wireless communication device responsive to the connection status message;

receiving audio via the activated microphone;

storing the received audio in a buffer on the initiating wireless communication device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication network is a code division multiple access network.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the first control channel is a reverse enhanced access channel.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the second control channel is a forward common control channel.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising indicating to a user that the initiating wireless communication device is ready to receive audio via the activated microphone.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a channel assignment message corresponding to the push-to-talk request, the channel assignment message identifying a traffic channel; and  
sending the stored audio over the traffic channel.

7. (Previously Presented) A system for initializing a push-to-talk call over a wireless communication network, comprising:

a requesting handset configured for over the air communication in the wireless communication network;

a base station configured to communicate over the air with the requesting handset, a push-to-talk call request to the base station in a first control channel;

a responsive connection status message from the base station in a second control channel;

an audio channel in the requesting handset, the audio channel configured to activate upon receiving the responsive connection status message;

a data storage area in the requesting handset, the data storage area configured to buffer audio received via the audio channel upon receiving the responsive connection status message and until a traffic channel is established.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the wireless communication network is a code division multiple access network.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the first control channel is a reverse enhanced access channel.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the second control channel is a forward common control channel.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the requesting handset is further configured to indicate to a user that the requesting handset is ready to receive audio input via the activated audio channel.